

Richard Cappuccio
Townsend Harris High School, New York City

“Place in fiction is the names, identified, concrete, exact and exacting, and therefore credible, gathering spot of all that has been felt. . . . It was in the New Zealand stories, written eleven thousand miles from home and out of homesickness, that Katherine Mansfield came into her own.”

--Eudora Welty

"How hard it is to escape from place. However carefully one goes they hold you – you leave little bits of yourself fluttering on the fences – little rags and shreds of your life."

-- Katherine Mansfield

Scope of continued study:

Eudora Welty acknowledges the importance of the short story master Katherine Mansfield in several essays and offers a brief analysis of Mansfield's landmark story "Miss Brill" from KM's second collection, *The Garden Party*. Miss Welty had some of Mansfield's work in her home library. Mansfield's work was reprinted many times during the 1930's.

This study will focus on elements of KM's fiction that influenced Miss Welty's early stories in *A Curtain of Green* (1941) and *The Wide Net* (1943). Among the similarities to be explored are the centrality of images of homesickness as the basis of the organization of the story and the empowered child character who moves out of a sheltered environment through an epiphanic moment whose importance is recognized but whose meaning remains mysterious.

Of particular importance is EW's recognition of the importance of KM's New Zealand stories as a separate, and superior, grouping of her work. Mansfield mentions her understanding of these stories in her *Journal*, a book that was in Miss Welty's library, although the New Zealand stories were not brought together under one binding until a quarter century after EW's astute understanding of them.

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